

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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R 211430Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7814

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8371

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED CASE

REF: A) ROME 6664; B) STATE 101110

FOR EUR/WE AND VO

1. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE LOCKHEED CASE DECIDED MAY 21 TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES ON MAY 31 FOR THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SURROUNDING LOCKHEED PAYMENTS IN THE C-130 SALES TO ITALY. THE REPORTS ADD THAT THE PLANS OF THE COMMISSION ARE DEPENDENT UPON AMERICAN ASSENT TO THE PROPOSED VISIT AND THAT A FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE IS BEING SUBMITTED BY THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. PROPOSED DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF NINE PARLIAMENTARIANS PLUS FIVE STAFFERS (COMPOSITION WILL PROBABLY BE THE SAME AS INDICATED IN ROME 7794 INCLUDING SOME COMMUNIST DEPUTIES AND STAFFERS.)

2. IN A CONVERSATION MAY 21 WITH SENATOR BARTOLOMEI, WHO IS HEAD OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP IN THE SENATE, THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED IN AN INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY MANNER THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SHOULD BE AWARE, THAT THE DELEGATION IS LIKELY TO RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES EMPTY-HANDED. REFERRING
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TO HIS APRIL 24 CONVERSATION WITH BARTOLOMEI AND DC

CHAMBER LEADER ON. PICCOLI (REFTELS A AND B), THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT THE USG IS SEEKING TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO THE ITALIAN SIDE. HE NOTED THAT ALL AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND HE DREW BARTOLOMEI'S ATTENTION TO THE LOCKHEED DENIAL OF APRIL 27 REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF PAYMENTS TO A PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. AT THE SAME TIME HE ALLUDED TO THE LEGAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH COULD IMPEDE THE EFFORT OF THE DELEGATION TO INTERVIEW INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. REPLYING TO THE AMBASSADOR, BARTOLOMEI SAID THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS, AND WAS CERTAIN HIMSELF THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO UNCOVER ANY NEW INFORMATION BY MEANS OF A TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AT THIS JUNCTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS AWARE OF THE MEDIA PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD ARISE WERE THE COMMISSION TO COME BACK WITHOUT MAKING ANY PROGRESS IN ITS INVESTIGATION. BARTOLOMEI STATED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CASTELLI TO EMPHASIZE THESE POINTS.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF THE VISIT AND REQUEST FOR VISAS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. (HOWEVER, WE HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER OF INTENT FROM ON. CASTELLI TO WHICH WE SENT A REPLY REQUESTING A NOTE VERBALE FOR THE MFA.) UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTION, THE EMBASSY PLANS TO ISSUE A-2 (TDY) VISAS TO ALL RPT ALL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION VALID FOR THREE MONTHS UPON RECEIPT OF FORMAL MFA NOTE. VOLPE

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